

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077746

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR MNUC NATO

SUBJECT: NPG - DRAFT AGENDA FOR MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: USNATO 1529

CNO PASS TO OP 604

1. WE AGREE THE PROPOSED AGENDA IS LONGER THAN NORMAL,
AND WITHOUT SOME PRIOR AGREEMENT AS TO HOW THE AGENDA ITEMS
MIGHT BE HANDLED, OR DELETION OF SOME OF THEM, IT WILL
REQUIRE MORE TIME TO COMPLETE THAN THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS
PROVIDE AND WOULD TEND TO STIFLE DISCUSSIONS. THE FOLLOW-
ING REPRESENT OUR VIEWS ON THE AGENDA.

AGENDAITEM I. BRIEFING ON THE BALANCE OF STRATEGIC
FORCES FOLLOWED BY GENERAL DISCUSSION. SINCE THIS
ITEM CONTINUES TO BE THE CENTERPIECE OF MINISTERIAL
DISCUSSIONS, WE BELIEVE THE ALLIES WOULD NOT WISH ITS
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PRESENTATION TO BE UNDULY SHORTENED OR RESTRUCTURED.

AGENDA ITEM II. FOLLOW-ONUSE PROGRAM - PHASE II. WE BELIEVE THAT EXCESSIVE TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED IF THE

MINISTERS HAD TO BE BRIEFED ON THE REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE PHASE II TEAM AND ALSO BY THE PERMREPS. IT WOULD BE MOREEFFICIENT IF THESE REPORTS ARE SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTERS BEFORE THE MEETING, AND FOLLOWING BRIEF INTRODUCTORY REMARKS (PERHAPS BY SYG LUNS) THE MINISTERS BE INVITED TO COMMENT ON THE REPORTS. UNDER THIS ARRANGEMENT, THIS ITEM MIGHT BE COMPLETED IN PERHAPS AT MOST 30 MINUTES.

IN THIS CONNECTION, MINISTERS NEED NOT ENGAGE IN A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE PHSE III EFFORT. WE WOULD ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS AND MOST APPROPRIATELY THE MINISTERS MIGHT CHARGE THE PERMREPS WITH DETERMINING IN PRECISE TERMS THE OBJECTIVES AND ORGANIZATION OF THE PHASE III EFFORT. THE SAME SUBJECT MIGHT MORE APPROPRIATELY BE RAISED UNDER AGENDA ITEM VII, "FUTURE WORK PROGRAM."

AGENDA ITEM III. COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTIONS TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WE ARE AWARE OF THE BRITISH INTEREST IN DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT, BUT ITS POSSIBILITIES APPEAR LIMITED. CNI AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS USE, HOWEVER, ARE ASPECTS OF WINTER-75 AND MAY ALSO ARISE IN THIS CONTEXT. WE BELIEVE THAT ANY DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM SHOULD BE BRIEF.

AGENDA ITEM IV. ILLUSTRATIVE STUDY: INITIAL USE - AIR DEFENSE. WE PROPOSE THIS ITEM BE DELETED FROM THE AGENDA. IF THIS IS NOT FEASIBLE THEN WE SHOULD GO BACK TO THE ARRANGEMENTS THAT WERE MADE FOR THE MEETING IN ROME, AND AS AGREED UPON AND REPORTED IN USNATO 5620, OF 10 OCTOBER 1974. THAT IS, THERE WOULD BE NO BRIEFING ON THIS SUBJECT BUT AS REPORT HAS ALREADY BEEN CIRCULATED THE MINISTERS MIGHT ONLY WISH TO NOTE IT.

AGENDA ITEM V. (PRELIMINARY) OBSERVATIONS ON WINTER 75.
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DEPENDING ON THE NATURE OF A REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH MIGHT BE PREPARED BY SACEUR OR THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, IT COULD FORM THE BASIS FOR USEFUL AND SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION BY MINISTERS AT THE SPRING MEETING. THIS ITEM MIGHT ALSO BE AN AGENDA ITEM FOR THE FALL MEETING OF THE NPG.

AGENDA ITEM VI. DISCUSSION OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT. IT IS

ENVISIONED THAT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MIGHT MAKE A BRIEF REPORT ON THE FOLLOW-ON ACTIONMADE NECESSARY BY

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT TO CONGRESS. AT THIS TIME, WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT MIGHT TAKE.

AGENDA ITEM VII. A PROGRESS REPORT BY THE FULL STUDY PANEL OF THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY GROUP. BECAUSE THIS SUBJECT IS CERTAINLY WORTHY OF MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION, AND WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY SO IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM INSTEAD OF BEING SUBSUMED UNDER THE AGENDA ITEM, "ANY OTHER BUSINESS." HOWEVER, WE ARE AWARE OF THE TIME CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY A RATHER LENGTHY AGENDAAND, IN VIEW OF THIS, THE ITEM MIGHT BE HANDLED BY HAVING THE UNITED STATES, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE STUDY GROUP, CIRCULATE A WRITTEN REPORT BEFORE THE MEETING WHICH THE MINISTERS MIGHT WISH TO NOTE.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. FUTURE WORK PROGRAM (INCLUDING TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING). (SEE COMMENTS CONCERNING PHASE III IN THE DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM II.) WE EXPECT ALSO, AS REPORTED IN USNATO 1198, THAT THE FRG WILL VOLUNTEER TO HOST THE NEXT MEETING AND THAT THEY WILL PROBABLY ANNOUNCE THE LOCATION AND DATE AT THIS MEETING.

AGENDA ITEM IX. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. WE ARE AWARE THAT THE FRG, UK AND ITALY HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RECEIVING A PROGRESS REPORT ON SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT PLANNING ACHIEVED BY THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS TO DATE. IF THE GERMANS, AMONG OTHERS, STILL WANT TO SEE THIS AS AN AGENDA ITEM, WE WOULD NOT OBJECT, AND SUCH A DISCUS-
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SION MIGHT PROPERLY FALL UNDER THIS AGENDA ITEM. GIVEN THE BREVITY OF THESE REPORTS AT THIS STAGE IN MNC PLANNING IT DOES NOT APPEAR USEFUL TO URGE THAT THEY BE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA. WE SUGGEST THAT SACEUR AND/OR SACLANT CIRCULATE A WRITTEN REPORTIN ADVANCE AND THAT IT MIGHT BE NOTED BY MINISTERS WHEN THIS AGENDA ITEM IS RAISED.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THE PRECEDING.

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